

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 535
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Captain Brent L. Morel
who will posthumously receive the Navy Cross
on May 21, 2005.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is honored to recognize those estimable soldiers
who have sacrificed their lives to ensure our individual and collective freedom; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous volunteer is Captain Brent L. Morel of the 1st
Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force; and

WHEREAS, assigned to the elite Marine Force Recon as a platoon commander on
February 25, 2004, Captain Brent Morel was deployed and based at Camp Pendleton in Iraq;
and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2004, Captain Morel lost his life in pursuit of freedom and
democracy for the people of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, he was fatally wounded in action near Fallujah in Al Anbar province when
his unit was ambushed; Captain Morel quickly leapt out of his own disabled vehicle, rescued five
Marines from the wreckage of vehicles on the road and lead a determined assault through a
relentless hail of automatic weapons and mortar fire in order to break up the enemy's attack;
and

WHEREAS, this prompt and courageous action surprised the enemy and stalled the
momentum of the ambush long enough for the injured Marines in the lead vehicle to move to
safety; Captain Morel's selfless act undoubtedly saved many soldiers' lives; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his valor and bravery, the United States Marine Corps is
conferring upon Captain Brent Morel the Navy Cross, the second highest honor bestowed by
the Navy and Marine Corps, on May 21, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Navy Cross recognizes those estimable individuals who risk their lives in combat in a manner so extraordinary it sets them apart from their contemporaries; and

WHEREAS, dearly missed by his wife, Amy, his parents, Mike and Molly Morel, and the rest of his family and friends, Captain Morel was wholly committed to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, a man of principle and conviction, Brent Morel was the embodiment of the American hero, and his bravery in the shadow of battle and the concern he held for the men at his side will long be remembered. His actions on the streets of Fallujah will be forever remembered by the men whose lives he saved; and

WHEREAS, for this brave and selfless sacrifice, Captain Brent Morel is wholly deserving of the Navy Cross, and this Body is honored to recognize its conferral; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we offer the deepest gratitude of a proud and saddened State to the late Captain Brent L. Morel on this, the occasion of his reception of the Navy Cross. We are humbled by his dedication to his country and his men and mourn the loss of such a fine individual.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our deepest condolences to his friends and family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.